



Sample Wood Badge Recognition Script

Foreword

This ceremony should fully focus on the person receiving the recognition. Any in-depth Wood Badge history or spotlight on any staff member should be avoided. Additionally, “The Gilwell Song” only should be sung when the audience is all Wood Badge Scouters, as it would exclude those who have not been a part of the experience and therefore cannot participate in the song.

Preparation

Suggested ceremony assignments:

- Master of Ceremonies (may be the course director or someone selected by the candidate)
- Escorts/helpers to present neckerchief and woggle
- Person to present beads (course director, family member, or whomever the candidate would like)

The honoree-Participant (Scouter being recognized) should provide the master of ceremonies with a summary of their accomplishments, either to be shared by the MC or the participant themselves.

Note: Tell the team members that you will explicitly tell them when to perform their function during the ceremony; therefore, they need not worry about missing a cue. Various team members may give the different explanation portions of the ceremony. Personalize by using the participant’s name where appropriate.

Introduction to the Presentation Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies: We are here today to recognize _____ for his/her commitment to Scouting and his/her accomplishments resulting from the Wood Badge experience.

Explanation of Wood Badge

Note: Intended for general information, especially if non-Wood Badge people are present.

Master of Ceremonies: “Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouting, began the training of adult Scouters in 1911 by organizing a series of lectures. In 1919, he made a further advance in Scouter training by devising and instituting the Wood Badge experience. He said, ‘One of the purposes of Wood Badge training is to get Scouters to think about the practice of Scouting, to meet, to exchange experiences, and to live together in the spirit of the Scout Oath.’



WOOD BADGE

“Wood Badge, while different in every country, is a world-wide training program, found in over 100 countries, today *<insert participant’s name>* joins tens of thousands of Scouters across the world who share in the learnings and recognition.

“Wood Badge is designed to be advanced leadership training for Scouting’s adults at the unit, district, council, and professional levels, taught through living the experience of a Scout troop employing the patrol method.

“The Wood Badge program consists of two phases: the training phase and the application phase.

“The training phase is set in an indoor and an outdoor environment where the participants partake in five days of classroom and hands-on learning activities.

“The application phase involves the participant’s commitment to complete a set of personal goals relating to his or her Scouting position. This commitment is known as ‘the Wood Badge ticket.’ In addition to strengthening the program in which the participant is involved, the ticket provides the opportunity to practice and demonstrate a working knowledge of the leadership skills presented during the course.

“When the participant has fulfilled the terms of his or her ticket, the Wood Badge recognition is presented.”

The Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies: “Would the award team now take their places?”

Note: *Call by name as they come forward.*

Master of Ceremonies: “Would escorts (*call by name*) please bring forward our recipient(s) (*call by name*) to be recognized?”

Note: *Speaker turns and faces the recipient(s). Address them by name.*

Master of Ceremonies: “(*Call recipient’s name(s)*), You have accomplished many things since you arrived at the training site and began your Wood Badge experience. In the course, you were introduced to many leadership and Scouting skills, and you wrote a ticket that was your commitment to put into practice what you had learned. You also set certain goals, which you expected to accomplish. During the application period, you were coached and counseled by a Scouter, and together, you evaluated your progress. Finally, you and your coach/counselor agreed that you had reached your goals.”

Note: *Speaker turns back and faces the audience. Take some time to talk about the accomplishments and benefits resulting from the ticket of this Scouter.*



WOOD BADGE

“<Insert Participant Name> has completed five goals that have made an impact to the Scouting movement and our Scouts.”

- Share or have the participant share one or two of the participant’s accomplishments or highlights.

Master of Ceremonies:

The Meaning of the Neckerchief

“When Wood Badge started in 1919, W. F. DuBois MacLaren, the commissioner in Scotland, purchased Gilwell Park near London, England, and presented it to the Scouting Association as a training center. We honor him by wearing a patch of the MacLaren hunting tartan upon the neckerchief.

“Please present the Wood Badge neckerchief.” *(Assigned team member does so.)*

The Meaning of the Woggle

“Wood Badge Scouters the world over are recognized by a two-strand leather woggle. Please present the Wood Badge woggle.” *(Assigned team member does so.)*

The Meaning of the Beads

“Wood Badge is named for the badge given those who successfully complete the entire experience. The badge consists of two wooden beads, worn on a leather thong around the neck. These are replicas of a bead necklace obtained in 1888 by Baden-Powell while he was serving in the military in Africa.

“Please present the Wood Badge beads.” *(Requested presenter does so.)*

Conclusion of Ceremony

“It has been said that Wood Badge is the peak Scouting training experience. This may be true, but it is much more. It is a commitment—a commitment to lifelong learning, a commitment made by a candidate, toward service to Scouting and its ideals, and to one’s self. Every Scouter accepted for a Wood Badge course subscribes to this commitment both in words and deeds.

“In the words of Baden-Powell, ‘In every country the aim of the Scout’s training is identical. Namely, efficiency for service toward others; and with such an object in common, we can, as an international brotherhood of service, go forward and do far-reaching work.’

“The Wood Badge award carries with it a certificate that reads: **‘Wood Badge, given by Boy Scouts of America, in recognition of completing the National Wood Badge requirements.’** It is signed by the chief Scout executive.” *(Present the certificate.)*

“And now we would like to invite you to congratulate these Scouters for their completion of Wood Badge.”